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Powers Swap Lawyer Gets CIA Medal

NEW YORK, Mar. 17 (AP).

James B. Donovan, who journeyed behind the Iron Curtain to secretly arrange swapping Rudolph Abel, the Soviet spy, for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, has been awarded a medal by the Central Intelligence Agency, it was disclosed today.

Mr. Donovan, who Col. Abel's court-appointed attorney at the Russian's spy trial, also received a letter from President Kennedy praising his "skill and courage" in the swap negotiations.

Information about the medal and letter was contained in an announcement by the New York City Board of Education with the permission of Mr. Donovan, its vice president.

The announcement said the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Medal was awarded to Mr. Donovan at a private ceremony last Tuesday. CIA Director John A. McCone made the presentation at the direction of President Kennedy.

Accompanying the medal was a citation saying of Mr. Donovan: "His unique accomplishments represent a contribution of great value to the CIA and to the United States Government."

The President's letter, dated last Monday, said the Brooklyn attorney had carried out the secret negotiations "with the greatest skill and courage," and added:

"You have by this time become aware of the resolution in the case of Francis Gary Powers.

"It must be a great source of gratification to you, and I want you to know that I consider the return of Mr. Powers and the results of the review of the case valuable contributions to the national interest."